

BA 1953

RED MEN'S HALL

1850-1875

FREELAND

PRIVATE

This residence apparently began its days as a trackside commercial structure owned by the town's leading businessman Caleb Gemmill, who was shown in the 1876 tax ledger with "Warehouse at Station." Gemmill in 1887 sold the lot and a building thereon to the Conowingo Tribe No. 74, Improved Order of Red Men. The hall first appears in the 1898 atlas, and it was called "Dwelling and Hall" in the 1918 tax ledger, its dimensions 16 by 28 feet. The Red Men surrendered their charter in 1952 and sold the building to Floy May Pugh. This vernacular style, frame and clapboard, gable-roofed building continues as a residence. There is no elaborate interior detail. A full-width enclosed porch runs across the front (trackside) of the house. The rear facade parallels a village side street.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RED MEN'S HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21,513 Railroad Avenue, (S/S Freeland Road, W/S of N.C.R.R.)

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ervin Gist Poe

Telephone #: 357-8009

STREET & NUMBER

1043 Freeland Road

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21053**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5076

Folio #: 454

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1953

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Red Men's Hall is a domestic-sized two-story frame dwelling in vernacular style, with clapboard covering and a gable roof. The building is at a corner with its gable end facing the main road. The structure is an irregular three bays wide in the facade facing the extinct railroad line, and it is almost without formal front, nor is there an entrance porch on this side. Five windows on this and those on the other facades are 1-over-1 double-hung sash windows. On the railroad side, the exceptional windows are a pair of multi-light casements at first story level.

The house is three bays deep on its north end with one window and two entrances at first-story level (facing Freeland Road). The central entrance contains two paneled doors with four glass lights each, set in a plain door frame. The west entrance, that farthest from the "tracks" contains a single-paneled door protected by a contemporary metal storm door. Both entrances are reached by wooden steps and an unsheltered platform or stoop.

At second story level, there is only one window, a 1-over-1 double-hung sash type in the bay nearest the former railroad tracks

The rear of the house faces a narrow village side street and is three bays deep. There is a full-width, shed-roofed porch, fully enclosed, across the front of the house. The central entrance contains a pair of paneled doors, each with large, single-sheet glass lights. The space under the porch is filled in with small windows. There are three windows of 1-over-1 format overlooking the porch roof.

The wall covering is unpainted, perhaps intentionally, to give a rural appearance. The roofing material is a white rubber or asphalt material of fairly fresh appearance. The owner reports finding no insignia or visible decorations of the former lodge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1850-1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Red Men's Hall has become a residence with the decline of fraternal orders, but apparently began its days as a commercial structure belonging to the town's leading family. Caleb Gemmill owned a "Warehouse at Station" worth \$800 on the 1876 tax ledger of District 6 and it was he who sold the founders of the local chapter a trackside parcel of land at the village of Freelands in 1887; the cost was \$1,035, and the deed mentioned a "building standing on said property." (1) The 1877 atlas shows an unidentified structure that is quite likely the warehouse. The lodge had already been incorporated, having been given a legal charter on April 3, 1886. The central organization of the order had prior to that given them the title "Conowingo Tribe No. 74, Improved Order of Red Men." (2) The officers buying the lodge site were Daniel Weeney, owner of a bone mill 0.3 mile up the Northern Central tracks; John R. Reyes; Edward Amos; George P. Morris; and James L. Gemmill, land-owner, store-keeper, and Freeland family in-law.

The Red Men's Hall first appears in the 1898 Bromley atlas, Plate 30. The 1918 tax ledger charged the Conowingo Tribe of Red Men with:

$\frac{1}{2}$ a.	at Freelands	100
	Dwelling & Hall 16 x 28 2 stories	221
	Barn 28 x 33	790
	Outbuilding 11 x 33	43 (3)

In 1952, the group sold its hall to Floy Mae Pugh, reciting in the deed the reason that "the tribe desires to surrender its charter and become members of Metamora Tribe No. 200." Some of the flavor of Red Men parlance is found in the list of grantors which enumerated:

Harold E. Myers, Grand Sachem; James M. Brown, Great Prophet; Robert E. Blair, Great Senior Sagamore; Oliver R. Kirby, Great Junior Sagamore; Paul W. Dols, Great Chief of Records; and William Thompson, Great Keeper of Wampum, consititting the Great Council of Maryland of the Improved Order of Red Men... (4)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Finally in 1970, Mrs. Pugh sold to the present owner, Ervin Gist Poe, who operates an antique shop in the large mansarded dwelling across the right of way of the defunct railway line. (5)

NOTES:

1. B.C. Deeds, JWS 165:404.
2. B.C. Incorporation Records, WMI 2:82.
3. B.C. Tax Ledger, 1918, District 6, f. 34.
4. B.C. Deeds, GLB 2089:126.
5. B.C. Deeds EHR. JR. 5076:454.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Deeds, Tax Ledgers, and Incorporations.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre, 1 road, 16 sq. Ps.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING AT CENTER LINE OF FREELAND ROAD AT RAILROAD

S50 $\frac{1}{2}$ E 15 perches along Northern Central Railroad r of w
 S39 $\frac{1}{2}$ W 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches
 N52 $\frac{1}{2}$ W 18-3/10 perches to stone in center line of road
 N55 $\frac{1}{2}$ E 13-7/10 perches to BEGINNING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE none

COUNTY none

STATE

none

COUNTY

none

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J.W. McGrain, HPO BC

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning

DATE

1979

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERS
5631 SW
EN ROCK)

RED MEN'S HALL BA 1953
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
NEW FREEDOM

DRA
LVA
OGP





RED MEN'S HALL BA 1953
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, October 1980
Neg. located at MHT
East facade (trackside)



RED MEN'S HALL

BA 1953

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain, October 1980

Neg. located at MHT

West facade from NW